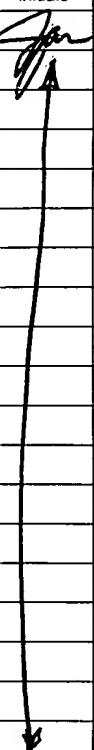



Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box →

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)  
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)			<b>Complete if Known</b>	
			Application Number	09/900,503
			Filing Date	July 6, 2001
			First Named Inventor	Hu et al.
			Group Art Unit	3732 3625
			Examiner Name	Jeffery A. Smith
Sheet 1 of 3	Attorney Docket Number	GUID-012CON		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examin er Initials'	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Documents		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, columns, lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		4,048,987		Hurson	9/20/77	
		4,049,000		Williams	9/20/77	
		4,421,107		Estes et al.	12/20/83	
		4,434,791		Darnell	3/6/84	
		4,627,421		Symbas et al.	12/9/86	
		4,702,230		Pelta	10/27/87	
		4,865,019		Phillips	9/12/89	
		4,971,037		Pelta	11/20/90	
		4,993,862		Pelta	2/19/91	
		5,025,779		Bugge	6/25/91	
		5,159,921		Hoover	11/3/92	
		Re 34,150		Santilli, et al.	12/29/92	
		5,520,610		Giglio et al.	5/28/96	
		5,730,757		Benetti et al.	3/24/98	
		5,875,782		Ferrari et al.	3/2/99	
		5,882,299		Rastegar et al.	3/16/99	
		5,944,736		Taylor et al.	8/31/99	
		5,947,896		Sherts et al.	9/7/99	
		5,976,171		Taylor	11/2/99	
			5,984,867		Deckman et al.	11/16/99

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Documents			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
			473,451		French	6/15/14		
			168,216		Great Britian	9/1/21		
			GB 2 267 827		United Kingdom	12/22/93		

Examiner Signature	[Signature]	Date Considered	6-14-02
-----------------------	-------------	--------------------	---------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

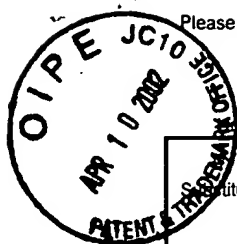
Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box →

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.



SUBSTITUTE for form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/900.503
				Filing Date	July 6, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Hu et al.
				Group Art Unit	3732 3625
				Examiner Name	Jeffery A. Smith
Sheet 2 of 3	Attorney Docket Number	GUID-012CON			

		WO 97/32514 A2	PCT	9/12/97	
		EP 0 803 228 A1	EP	10/29/97	
		WO 97/40752	PCT	11/6/97	
		WO 98/27869	PCT	7/2/98	
		WO 99/09892	PCT	3/4/99	
		WO 99/16367	PCT	4/8/99	
		WO 00/10466	PCT	3/2/00	

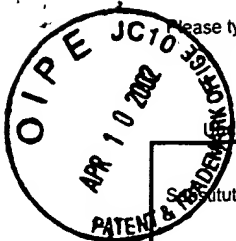
OTHER PRIOR ART—NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>	
		Ancalmo, N. and J.L. Ochsner: "A Modified Sternal Retractor," Ann. Thorac. Surg. 21 (1976) 174		
		Angelini, G.D., M.D. et al., "A Fiber-Optic Retractor for Harvesting the Internal Mammary Artery," Ann. Thorac. Surg. (1990; 50:314-5)		
		Antinori, C. et al., "A Method of Retraction During Reoperative Coronary Operations Using the Favaloro Retractor," The Society of Thoracic Surgeons: 1989		
		Beg, R.A.H. Naraghipour, E.B. Kay and P. Rullo, "Internal Mammary Retractor," Ann Thorac. Surg. 39 (1985) 286-287		
		Campalani, G., M.D., et al., "A New Self-Retaining Internal Mammary Artery Retractor," J. Cardiovas. Surg. 28, 1987		
		Chaux, A. and C. Blanche, "A New Concept in Sternal Retraction: Applications for Internal Mammary Artery Dissection and Valve Replacement," Ann. Thorac. Surg. 42 (1986) 473-474		
		Delacroix-Chevalier Surgical Instruments, IMA Saving Packages Brouchure		
		Guzman, F. M.D., "Transient Radial Nerve Injury Related to the Use of A Self Retraining Retractor for Internal Mammary Artery Dissection," J. Cardiovasc Surg. 30, 1989, pgs. 1015-16		
		Itoh, Toshiaki, M.D., et al., "New Modification of a Mammary Artery Retractor," Ann. Thorac. Surg. 9 (1994):57:1670-1		
		McKeown, P.P. et al., "A Modified Sternal Retractor for Exposure of the Internal Mammary Artery," Ann. Thorac. Surg. 32 (1981) 619		

Examiner Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date Considered	6-14-02
--------------------	--------------------	-----------------	---------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.



Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box →

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
		Application Number	09/900,503
		Filing Date	July 6, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Hu et al.
		Group Art Unit	<del>5732</del> 3625
		Examiner Name	Jeffery A. Smith
Sheet 3 of 3	Attorney Docket Number	GUID-012CON	

	Phillips, Steven J., M.D. et al., "A Versatile Retractor for Use in Harvesting the Internal Mammary Artery and Performing Standard Cardiac Operations," J. Thorac. Cardiovasc. Surg. (1989; 97:633-5)	
	Pilling Surgical Instruments, A Rusch International Company Brochure	
	Pittman, John, M.D., et al., "Improved Visualization of the Internal Mammary Artery with a New Retractor System," Ann. Thorac. Surg., 1989; 48:869-70	
	Roux, D., M.D. et al., "Internal Mammary Artery Dissection: A Three-dimensional Sternal Retractor," J. Cardiovasc. Surg. 1989; 30:996-7	
	USSC Cardiovascular Thora-Lift™, United States Surgical Corporation, Norwalk, Connecticut, Product Brochure	
	Vincent, J.G., "A Compact Single Post Internal Mammary Artery Dissection Retractor," Eur. J. Cardio-Thor. Surg. 3(1989) 276-277	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	6-14-02
--------------------	--	-----------------	---------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.